



STATE OF INDIANA  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
State House, Second Floor  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

Mitchell E. Daniels, Jr.  
Governor

March 5, 2009

Joseph A. Zogby, Ph.D.  
Maternal and Child Health Bureau  
Parklawn Building, Room 18A-39  
5600 Fishers Lane  
Rockville, Maryland 20857

Dear Dr. Zogby:

I enthusiastically support the Indiana State Department of Health's application for an Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems grant that will help further our efforts to ensure the healthy development and school readiness of Indiana's children. This is a top priority for the State of Indiana.

The vision of the initiative, Sunny Start: Healthy Bodies, Healthy Minds, is that in Indiana, children are safe, healthy and reach their full potential, which is in line with the work of this Administration. The goal is that every family with young children has access to quality comprehensive resources and supports that are coordinated, cost effective, culturally and linguistically competent and community-based. We are committed to provide the additional effort and strong leadership needed to achieve collaborative partnerships that will maximize health, mental health, early care and education, parenting education and family support benefits to the children, families and communities served. With the approval of this application, we will be able to move forward and address the issues surrounding Access to Health Insurance and Medical Homes, Mental and Social-Emotional Development, Early Care and Education, Parenting Education, and Family Support.

During the past three years, Sunny Start has begun implementation of its strategic plan. This grant will provide Indiana with the opportunity to continue to move forward on this project with the goal of an improved coordinated and comprehensive system of services. My staff and I look forward to working with the Maternal and Children's Special Health Care Services at the Indiana State Department of Health to implement the next phase of the Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems Plan.

Sincerely,

*M E Daniels, Jr.*